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TAGS: [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [KNNP](#) [NL](#)  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/IRAN: FATF STATEMENT PREACHES TO THE  
CONVERTED

REF: STATE 115523

Classified By: Head of Economic Unit Shawn Gray, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (S) SUMMARY: The Dutch government agrees fully with U.S. concerns about Iran's lack of anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing regime. They are already taking action and want the U.S. to have confidence in the Netherlands' commitment and ability to address the terrorism finance threat from Iran. Senior Finance Ministry officials complained that repetitive high-level demarches offering no new substantive information are not constructive. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (S) Econoff delivered reftel points November 4 to Eric Lighthart, Deputy Director Financial Integrity Division, Ministry of Finance, and two of his colleagues. Lighthart said the Dutch government considers itself a close ally of the U.S. on terrorism finance and worked to obtain a strong FATF statement on Iran at the Rio plenary. He said reftel points contained no information that the Dutch were not already aware of and taking steps to address. Moreover, Lighthart was dismayed that the U.S. government was again raising the issue of Credit Europe Bank's correspondent relationship with Iranian banks. He said the Dutch government was fully aware of the issue, having heard the message loud and clear in September when Treasury Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey brought it to the attention of the Finance Ministry's number three official as well as senior Foreign Ministry counterterrorism officials. Lighthart said the Dutch government had taken action to resolve the issue and discussed these actions in detail when Dutch Embassy representatives met October 23 with Undersecretary Levey in Washington. Lighthart asked that the U.S. have confidence in the Netherlands' commitment and ability to implement FATF's guidance and UN Security Council Resolutions as they relate to the terrorism finance threat from Iran.

[1](#)3. (S) Lighthart expressed concern that the concerted efforts by the U.S., Netherlands and many others to prevent funding of Iran's illicit activities were undermined by lax enforcement in certain Middle East financial centers. He said one need only look at those banks active in Dubai to gain an idea of which countries are involved in diverting funds to Iran.  
CULBERTSON